

by 2nd Lt. Ashley Conner



Staff Sgt. Phillip Hauser stands next to the new explosive ordnance disposal vehicle he helped design. This vehicle will serve as the benchmark for all EOD vehicles. Sergeant

Hauser is an EOD technician with the 22nd Civil Engineering Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

Airman designs new EOD vehicle

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — Little did Staff Sgt. **Phillip Hauser** know that his drawing on the back of a napkin would turn into the design for a new explosive ordnance disposal vehicle, serving as the Air Force benchmark for the EOD community.

"There was never enough room for all the equipment. The new vehicle has much more space for equipment and room to work in," said the 22nd Civil Engineering Squadron EOD technician. "After 10 years of being an EOD tech, I knew what needed to be changed."

The 90-gallon diesel truck is equipped with doors on either side to allow the EOD robot to exit with ease. It also has plenty of light. Closed-in quartz lights

strategically placed on the side of the vehicle, four halogen lights atop the truck, and a light tower that extends 25 feet in the air. The 38,000-pound truck runs on an eight-cylinder Mercedes-Benz engine.

"It is more efficient and professional," said Staff Sgt. **Jeff Schrader**, EOD technician. "In the past, we would show up on the scene in a multipurpose van and our gear was held together with bungee cords and rubber bands. It was like a clown car."

In addition to substantial lighting capability, the truck is equipped with automatic tire chains, a lined explosive compartment, as well as a television and infrared cameras affixed to the back that can project outside images onto screens inside the truck.

Sergeant Hauser worked with E-ONE, the company that made the vehicle, to ensure the smallest details were in place. He also got insight from the Orlando Bomb Squad, which had a similar vehicle made, and "they were able to give us advice and tell us what worked and what didn't," the sergeant said.

Air Force officials have purchased more than 30 of the \$274,000 vehicles. McConnell's first truck was delivered in June 2004. Air Combat Command was the first to purchase a version of the truck, followed by Air Mobility Command, Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

— 2nd Lt. Ashley Conner
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